

## Fiscal Highlights

### Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee Meets at Mountainland ATC - Spencer C. Pratt

On August 2, 2016, the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee met at Mountainland Applied Technology College in Lehi. The first topic of discussion centered around student debt, comparing Utah data to national data. The issue brief, "[Student Debt: USHE and National Data](#)", showed various measurements of student debt for the institutions in the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). Approximately 54 percent of graduates complete their degree with debt. The average amount of debt is \$18,921. The percentage of students graduating with debt ranks 41st in the country; the average debt level is 49th. Additional data showing affordability, economic diversity, and student success was also presented. Default rates for students with debt ranged from 3.2 percent to 15.2 percent for USHE institutions in 2012. When Utah is ranked with other states, it has the 7th lowest default rate in the country, with an average of 5.5 percent.

A [historical view of higher education funding](#) - both state funds and tuition - was presented. State funding, as a percentage of the total has decreased in the past 15 years, while tuition has increased. Across the USHE over the past few years, those two sources have split the total cost fairly evenly. The issue brief also showed average costs per degree at each of the institutions. The brief also showed various measures comparing Utah to the other states.

Sen. Millner reported on partnership proposals for stackable credentials as outlined in S.B. 103, recently passed during the 2016 General Session. A review of the proposals concluded that a number would be asked to be refined and resubmitted. These will be presented during the Subcommittee's October meeting.

Both the [USHE CTE Annual Report](#) and the [UCAT Annual Report](#) were shown and are available for subcommittee members to review. A report showing [UCAT Certificates and Program Length](#) was then presented which provides specific data on the percentage of program certificates that are 0-500 hours, 501-1,000 hours, and those over 1,000 hours at each UCAT campus. UCAT campuses also reported on specific things each has done to gain additional [internal efficiencies](#).

Following the adjournment of the meeting, committee members were invited to take a tour of the Mountainland Applied Technology College Thanksgiving Point Campus.